

CLAIMS

1. A method for transporting freight comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing freight intended for transport by a carrier having at least one carrier vehicle and a carrier control center for communicating with the carrier vehicle;
 - (b) determining that the carrier vehicle is not available to transport the freight;
 - (c) providing a third party carrier having at least one third party vehicle and a third party control center for communicating with the third party vehicle;
 - (d) determining that the freight can be transported by the third party vehicle of the third party carrier; and
 - (e) communicating freight transportation status from the third party vehicle to the carrier control center.
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said carrier control center comprises a carrier dispatch center.
3. The method of Claim 1 wherein said carrier control center comprises a carrier network management facility.
4. The method of Claim 3 wherein said third party vehicle comprises a mobile communication terminal for communicating with the carrier control center.
5. The method of Claim 1 wherein said communicating freight transportation status from the third party vehicle to the carrier control center is via a satellite.
6. The method of Claim 1 wherein said communicating freight transportation status from the third party vehicle to the carrier control center is via a terrestrial-based wireless communication system.
7. The method of Claim 1 additionally comprising transporting, prior to the communicating step (e), the freight by the third party vehicle.
8. A method for transporting and tracking freight comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing freight intended to be transported by a carrier having a carrier control center;

- 4 (b) determining that the freight cannot be transported by said carrier;
 (c) determining that the freight can be transported by a third party carrier;
 6 (d) transporting the freight by a vehicle of said third party carrier;
 (e) transmitting to the carrier control center the status of the freight being
 8 transported by said vehicle of third party carrier; and
 (f) transmitting the status of the freight by said carrier control center to a
 10 shipper of the freight.

9. The method of Claim 8 additionally comprising generating, prior to said
 2 transmitting step (e), an indication of the status of the freight.

10. The method of Claim 8 wherein said carrier control center comprises a carrier
 2 dispatch center.

11. The method of Claim 8 wherein said carrier control center comprises a carrier
 2 network management facility

12. The method of Claim 11 wherein said third party vehicle comprises a mobile
 2 communication terminal for communicating with the carrier control center.

13. The method of Claim 8 wherein said communicating freight transportation
 2 status from the third party vehicle to the carrier control center is via a satellite.

14. The method of Claim 8 wherein said communicating freight transportation
 2 status from the third party vehicle to the carrier control center is via a terrestrial-based
 wireless communication system

15. The method of Claim 8 additionally comprising contractual arranging, prior to
 2 said determining step (c), for the transportation of freight by said carrier for shipper such that
 said carrier is obligated to transport the freight of the shipper.

16. A method for transporting freight comprising the steps of:

- 2 (a) informing a carrier control center that a shipper has freight to be
 transported;
 4 (b) transmitting a first freight-transportation request from said carrier
 control center to a carrier having at least one carrier vehicle for transporting freight;
 6 (c) informing the carrier control center that the carrier cannot transport the
 freight with the carrier vehicle;

8 (d) transmitting a second freight-transportation request from said carrier
control center to a third party control center of a third party carrier having at least one
10 third party carrier vehicle for transporting freight;

(e) transporting the freight by said third party carrier with at least one third
12 party carrier vehicle; and

(f) transmitting freight status information from the carrier control center to the
14 shipper of the freight.

17. The method of Claim 16 additionally comprising determining, prior to step
2 (c), that the carrier cannot transport the freight with the carrier vehicle.

18. The method of Claim 16 additionally comprising tracking, prior to step (f), the
2 freight by the carrier control center for generating freight status information.

19. The method of Claim 16 wherein said carrier control center comprises a
2 carrier dispatch center.

20. The method of Claim 16 wherein said carrier control center comprises a
2 carrier network management facility.

21. The method of Claim 20 wherein said third party carrier vehicle comprises a
2 mobile communication terminal for communicating with the carrier control center.

22. The method of Claim 16 wherein said communicating freight transportation
2 status from the third party carrier vehicle to the carrier control center is via a satellite.

23. The method of Claim 16 wherein said communicating freight transportation
2 status from the third party carrier vehicle to the carrier control center is via a terrestrial-based
wireless communication system.

24. A system for transporting freight comprising:
2 a carrier dispatch center for transmitting and receiving messages;
a carrier having a carrier vehicle communicatively coupled to the carrier
4 dispatch center;
a third party dispatch center for transmitting and receiving messages; and
6 a third party carrier having a third party carrier vehicle communicatively coupled to
the carrier dispatch center and to the third party dispatch center.

25. The system of Claim 24 additionally comprising a carrier network management facility communicatively engaged with the carrier dispatch center.

26. The system of Claim 24 wherein said third party carrier vehicle includes a mobile communication terminal communicatively coupled to a carrier network management facility.

27. The system of Claim 26 additionally comprising a satellite system for communicatively transferring messages from the third party carrier vehicle to the carrier network management facility.

28. The system of Claim 26 additionally comprising a terrestrial-based wireless communication.

29. A method for providing personnel to furnish services comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a first organization having first personnel for performing services intended for a requestor of the services and having a first personnel control center for communicating with the first personnel;

(b) determining that the first personnel of the first organization are not available to provide the services requested by the requestor;

(c) providing a second organization having second personnel which are capable of performing the services requested by the requestor;

(d) determining that second personnel of the second organization can perform the services requested by the requestor;

(e) assigning the services requested by the requestor to the second personnel; and

(f) communicating a service status from the second personnel to the first personnel control center.

30. The method of Claim 29 wherein said first personnel control center comprises a personnel dispatch center.

31. The method of Claim 29 wherein said first personnel control center comprises a personnel network management facility.

32. The method of Claim 31 wherein said second personnel communicated with the first personnel control center with a mobile communication terminal.

33. The method of Claim 29 wherein said communicating service status from the second personnel to the first personnel control center is via a satellite.

34. The method of Claim 29 wherein said communicating service status from the second personnel to the first personnel control center is via a terrestrial-based wireless communication system.

35. A method for allocating services comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a first organization having at least one first carrier for transporting first personnel to perform services for a requestor of the services and having a first personnel control center for communicating with the first carrier of the first personnel;

(b) determining that the first personnel of the first organization are not available to provide services requested by the requestor;

(c) providing a second organization having at least one second carrier for transporting second personnel which are capable of performing the services requested by the requestor;

(d) determining that second personnel of the second organization are available to perform the services requested by the requestor;

(e) assigning the second personnel to do the services requested by the requestor; and

(f) communicating a service status from the second carrier to the first personnel control center.

36. The method of Claim 35 wherein said first personnel control center comprises a personnel dispatch center.

37. The method of Claim 35 wherein said first personnel control center comprises a personnel network management facility.

38. The method of Claim 37 wherein said second carrier includes a mobile communication terminal for communicating with the first personnel control center.

39. The method of Claim 29 wherein said communicating service status from the second carrier to the first personnel control center is via a satellite.

2

1